

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A foam seat element comprising:

an isocyanate-based foam matrix having a seat surface, at least a portion of the seat surface comprising at least one air channel having an air channel surface, the air channel surface being coated with a substantially fluid impermeable material.
2. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the foam matrix comprises an isocyanate-based foam matrix.
3. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material comprises an elastomeric coating.
4. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material comprises a thickness of less than or equal to about 1.5 mm.

5. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material comprises a thickness in the range of from about 0.01 mm to about 1.5 mm.

6. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material comprises a thickness in the range of from about 0.01 mm to about 1.0 mm.

7. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, further comprising a passageway in communication with the at least one channel and with another surface of the foam element.

8. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 7, wherein the surface comprises at least two channels.

9. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 8, wherein the two channels are interconnected by the passageway.

10. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 7, wherein the passageway comprises a passageway surface which is coated with a substantially fluid impermeable material.

11. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the substantially fluid impermeable material is substantially non-cellular.

12. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the substantially fluid impermeable material is produced in situ in a mold used to produce the foam matrix.

13. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the substantially fluid impermeable material is derived from an emulsion composition comprising polymer particles.

14. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the foam matrix comprises a polyurethane foam.

15. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, further comprising a diffuser element secured to the foam matrix and covering at least a portion of the at least one channel.

16. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, further comprising a trim cover over at least the surface of the foam element.

17. (Original) The foam element defined in claim 1, further comprising a frame element which is at least partially embedded in the foam matrix.

18. (Original) A vehicular seat comprising the foam element defined in claim 1.

19. (Original) A vehicular seat cushion comprising the foam element defined in claim 1.

20. (Original) a vehicular seat backrest comprising the foam element defined in claim 1.

Claims 21-44 (Cancelled).

45. (Currently Amended) A foam vehicle seat portion comprising:
an isocyanate-based foam matrix having a seat surface; and
at least one gas channel disposed in said matrix and having a gas channel surface at the seat surface, at least a portion of the gas channel surface being coated with a substantially gas impermeable material to retard diffusion of gas through said gas channel surface into said foam matrix.

46. (Currently Amended) A foam vehicle seat element comprising:
an isocyanate-based foam matrix having a seat surface, at least a portion of said matrix surface being air-permeable;
an air channel disposed in said matrix surface at the seat surface;

an air channel surface disposed on at least a portion of the air channel, said air channel surface comprising a substantially air-impermeable material which substantially prevents diffusion of air through said gas channel surface into said foam matrix; and

an air permeable covering disposed over said air channel to permit air to flow from said air channel through said covering.

47. (Previously Presented) The foam element defined in claim 1, wherein the substantially fluid impermeable material covers less than the complete seat surface.

48. (Previously Presented) A foam vehicle seat portion according to Claim 45, wherein the foam matrix comprises an isocyanate-based foam matrix.

49. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material comprises an elastomeric coating.

50. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material comprises a thickness of less than or equal to about 1.5 mm.

51. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material comprises a thickness in the range of from about 0.01 mm to about 1.5 mm.

52. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material comprises a thickness in the range of from about 0.01 mm to about 1.0 mm.

53. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, further comprising a passageway in communication with the at least one gas channel and with another surface of the foam seat portion.

54. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 53, wherein the surface comprises at least two channels.

55. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 54, wherein the two channels are interconnected by the passageway.

56. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 53, wherein the passageway comprises a passageway surface which is coated with the substantially gas impermeable material.

57. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material is substantially non-cellular.

58. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material is produced in situ in a mold used to

produce the foam matrix.

59. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material is derived from an emulsion composition comprising polymer particles.

60. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the foam matrix comprises a polyurethane foam.

61. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, further comprising a diffuser element secured to the foam matrix and covering at least a portion of the at least one channel.

62. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, further comprising a trim cover over at least the surface of the foam seat portion.

63. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, further comprising a frame element which is at least partially embedded in the foam matrix.

64. (Previously Presented) A vehicular seat comprising the foam seat portion defined in claim 45.

65. (Previously Presented) A vehicular seat cushion comprising the foam seat portion defined in claim 45.

66. (Previously Presented) a vehicular seat backrest comprising the foam seat portion defined in claim 45.

67. (Previously Presented) The foam seat portion defined in claim 45, wherein the substantially gas impermeable material covers less than the complete seat surface.

68. (Previously Presented) A foam vehicle seat element according to Claim 46, wherein the foam matrix comprises a homogeneous isocyanate-based foam matrix.

69. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the substantially air-impermeable material comprises an elastomeric coating.

70. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the substantially air-impermeable material comprises a thickness of less than or equal to about 1.5 mm.

71. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the substantially air-impermeable material comprises a thickness in the range of from about 0.01 mm to about 1.5 mm.

72. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the substantially air-impermeable material comprises a thickness in the range of from about 0.01 mm to about 1.0 mm.

73. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, further comprising a passageway in communication with the air channel and with another surface of the foam vehicle seat element.

74. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 73, wherein the surface comprises at least two channels.

75. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 74, wherein the two channels are interconnected by the passageway.

76. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 73, wherein the passageway comprises a passageway surface which is coated with the substantially air-impermeable material.

77. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the substantially air-impermeable material is substantially non-cellular.

78. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the substantially air-impermeable material is produced in situ in a mold used to produce the foam matrix.

79. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the substantially air-impermeable material is derived from an emulsion composition comprising polymer particles.

80. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the foam matrix comprises a polyurethane foam.

81. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, further comprising a diffuser element secured to the foam matrix and covering at least a portion of the at least one channel.

82. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, further comprising a trim cover over at least the surface of the foam vehicle seat element.

83. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, further comprising a frame element which is at least partially embedded in the foam matrix.

84. (Previously Presented) A vehicular seat comprising the foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46.

85. (Previously Presented) A vehicular seat cushion comprising the foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46.

86. (Previously Presented) a vehicular seat backrest comprising the foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46.

87. (Previously Presented) The foam vehicle seat element defined in claim 46, wherein the substantially air-impermeable material covers less than the complete seat surface.